

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island

March 3, 2006



Ten-year prison sentence for drugs and guns

A federal judge today sentenced **Ronald Hall**, of Providence, to ten years in prison for being a felon in possession of firearms and possessing crack cocaine. Providence Police detectives arrested Hall in July after seeing him run into a house on Chester Street, carrying a gun.

The office of United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Smith also imposed a mandatory \$1,000 fine.

In December, Hall pleaded guilty to the two charges. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that, on July 20, Providence Police detectives saw Hall outside a Chester Street house. As they approached him, Hall ran into the house, holding a black handgun, which detectives saw when he tripped while running up the front steps. Detectives followed Hall into the house and recovered the gun, a nine millimeter pistol, from a chair where Hall had stashed it. They also seized another gun, a .32 caliber pistol, and a bag containing about five grams of crack cocaine.

Hall, 23, has several prior felony convictions, including robbery and conspiracy to murder. The extent of his criminal record placed him at the top level of the sentence calculation range under federal guidelines.

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Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 700 years in federal prison.

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